

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2911

To improve vaccination rates among children.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 24, 2008

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Edu-  
cation, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To improve vaccination rates among children.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Infant Immunization  
5       Improvement Act of 2008”.

6       **SEC. 2. DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR VACCINATION CO-**  
7       **LOCATION SERVICES AT WIC CLINICS.**

8       Section 317(k) of the Public Health Service Act (42  
9       U.S.C. 247b(k)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
10      lowing:

11      “(5) IMMUNIZATIONS.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—An immunization grantee  
2           under this section may use amounts made available  
3           under this section to provide, through participating  
4           WIC clinics—

5                   “(i) recommended vaccines to children  
6                   aged 0 to 35 months who satisfy the eligibility  
7                   requirements;

8                   “(ii) for the coordination of care or immu-  
9                   nization services; or

10                  “(iii) payment for the salary of an immuni-  
11                  zation coordinator.

12           “(B) IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION SYSTEMS.—  
13           Any grantee that receives funding under this section  
14           for an immunization information system shall permit  
15           all clinics that participate in the projects under this  
16           section and in the Special Supplemental Food and  
17           Nutrition Program under section 17 of the Child  
18           Nutrition Act of 1966 to have access to the system.

19           “(C) APPROPRIATE IMMUNIZATION SERVICES.—  
20           In carrying out activities under this section related  
21           to screening for appropriate immunization services,  
22           the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and  
23           Prevention and State administrators of the program  
24           referred to in subparagraph (A) shall consult with

1 the Food and Nutrition Service of the Department  
2 of Agriculture.

3 “(D) REQUIREMENT.—Activities under this  
4 paragraph shall target areas with the greatest im-  
5 munization needs in the 0 to 35 month age group.

6 “(E) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

7 “(i) IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION SYS-  
8 TEM.—The term ‘immunization information  
9 system’ means a confidential, computerized in-  
10 formation system that collects and consolidates  
11 vaccination data from multiple health-care pro-  
12 viders, generates reminder and recall notifica-  
13 tions, and assess vaccination coverage. Such  
14 systems may have added capabilities, such as  
15 vaccine management, adverse event reporting,  
16 lifespan vaccination histories, and interoper-  
17 ability with electronic medical records.

18 “(ii) IMMUNIZATION COORDINATOR.—The  
19 term ‘immunization coordinator’ means an indi-  
20 vidual who coordinates immunization activities,  
21 including the screening of immunization  
22 records, reminders of necessary immunizations  
23 and referrals of patients, if necessary, to an im-  
24 munization provider.

1           “(F) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

2           There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
 3           this paragraph, \$5,500,000 for each of the 3-fiscal  
 4           years beginning with the first fiscal year after the  
 5           date of enactment of the Infant Immunization Im-  
 6           provement Act of 2008.”.

7   **SEC. 3. ANNUAL PUBLIC IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS CAM-**  
 8                           **PAIGN.**

9           Section 317 of the Public Health Service Act (42  
 10          U.S.C. 247b) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
 11          lowing:

12          “(I) ANNUAL PUBLIC IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS  
 13          CAMPAIGN.—

14               “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting  
 15               through the Director of the Centers for Disease  
 16               Control and Prevention, shall annually conduct a  
 17               public, age appropriate, immunization awareness  
 18               campaign, and carry out immunization education  
 19               and outreach activities, to—

20                       “(A) increase the awareness of parents of  
 21                       the benefits of age appropriate immunizations;

22                       “(B) inform the general public concerning  
 23                       the efficacy of new vaccines and new vaccine  
 24                       schedules; and

1           “(C) disseminate information that empha-  
 2           sizes the benefits of recommended vaccines for  
 3           the public good.

4           “(2) TIMING.—Activities carried out under  
 5           paragraph (1) shall be timed to coincide, to the ex-  
 6           tent practicable, with national health observances.

7           “(3) REQUIREMENT.—Activities under this sub-  
 8           section shall target areas with the greatest immuni-  
 9           zation needs in the 0 to 35 month age group.

10          “(4) FUNDING.—In addition to amounts appro-  
 11          priated under this section for immunization pur-  
 12          poses, there is authorized to be appropriated,  
 13          \$5,000,000 for each of the 3-fiscal years beginning  
 14          with the first fiscal year after the date of enactment  
 15          of the Infant Immunization Improvement Act of  
 16          2008.”.

17 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF THE SENATE CONCERNING ELECTRONIC**  
 18 **MEDICAL RECORDS.**

19          It is the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of  
 20          Health and Human Services and the Director of the Cen-  
 21          ters for Disease Control and Prevention should work to  
 22          improve the integration of immunization information sys-  
 23          tems (as defined in section 317(k)(5) of the Public Health

- 1 Service Act) with electronic medical records, other health
- 2 information systems, and health information exchanges.

